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Appl. No. 10/824,844
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 35271.34
Customer No. 27623

REMARKS

Claims 38-40, 42, 44-45 and 47-48 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-85 are pending in the application. In regard to the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants have previously paid filing fees in an amount sufficient to cover all of the claims that remain pending after entry of the amendments, and thus no additional filing fee is due in association with the submission of this Amendment. In view of the foregoing amendments, and the remarks that follow, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Noted with appreciation is the indication in the Office Action that Claims 1-37 and 50-85 have been allowed. (As a practical matter, since Claims 5 and 15 were previously canceled, the allowed claims in this group are actually Claims 1-4, 6-14, 17-37 and 50-85).

Also noted with appreciation is the indication in the Office Action that dependent Claim 44 is directed to allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the foregoing amendments add to Claim 44 the limitations of Claims 42 and 43, in order to convert Claim 44 into an independent claim. These changes do not result in any alteration to the scope of Claim 44. Claim 44 should thus now be in proper condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 45 and 47 have been amended so that Claims 45-47 now each depend directly or indirectly from allowable Claim 44. Claims 45-47 should thus be allowable with Claim 44.

Claims 38-40 and 48 have been amended so that Claims 38-41 and 48 now each depend directly or indirectly from allowable Claim 1. Claims 38-41 and 48 should thus all be allowable with Claim 1.

Claim 42 has been amended so that Claims 42-43 and 49 now each depend directly or indirectly from allowable Claim 11. Claims 42-43 and 49 should thus all be allowable with Claim 11.

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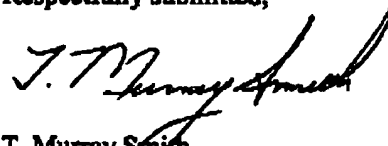
Attorney Docket No. 35271.34
Customer No. 27683

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are fully allowable, and it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue.

Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in association with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1394 of Haynes and Boone LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 19, 2006

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Enclosures: None

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